

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 1-3, 5-6, 16, and 20 are currently being amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found, for example, on page 7, lines 3-19.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 16, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okada (JP 2000-063104). Claim 1, as amended, recites that a method for operating a drive system for a fuel cell comprises generating reformat gas containing hydrogen by reforming a fuel gas with a reformer, supplying the reformat gas to the fuel cell, supplying a mixture of the fuel gas and air to the reformer from a gas supply device provided upstream of the reformer when the system is in a normal running state, generating a high temperature gas containing a fuel component for a reforming reaction with the gas supply device, and supplying the high temperature gas containing the fuel component for the reforming reaction to the reformer continuously until warm-up of the system completes when the system starts up.

In contrast to claim 1, Okada fails to disclose or suggest supplying the high temperature gas containing the fuel component for the reforming reaction to the reformer continuously until warm-up of the system completes when the system starts up. Although Okada discloses supplying high temperature gas immediately after combustion is stopped, it does not disclose or suggest supplying it continuously until warm-up of the system completes when the system starts up. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Okada.

Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 16, and 20 are also patentably distinguishable from Okada by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, as well as their additional recitations. Applicant notes that in the Response to Arguments that the Examiner has asserted that claims 2-7, 9, 10, 16, and 20 are not necessarily allowable based on the allowability of claim 1. Applicant submits that

the amendments to claims 2-3, 5-6, 16 and 20 makes claims 2-7, 9, 10, 16, and 20 allowable based on the allowability of claim 1 because the driving system must be configured to operate in the manner recited in claim 1. The mere capability of a prior art device to do so is insufficient if there is no disclosure or suggestion to configure the prior art device to operate in the manner recited in claim 1.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 3 / 3 / 06

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